MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Begin Interview--The Israeli Government Press Office has issued the transcript of replies by Prime Minister Menahem Begin to questions posed by NBC. In it Begin elaborated on the meaning of Israel's demand for a restoration of the status quo ante in Lebanon, saying that this requires that the Syrians remove not only their missiles in Lebanon but also the additional missiles that they have deployed on the Syrian-Lebanese border and that Syria give Israel a commitment that it will not use its missiles against Israeli planes overflying Lebanon. He also said the Syrians must withdraw from the Mt. Sannin and lift their siege of Zahlah. Begin also dismissed the idea that Israel would be willing to accept a trade-off whereby Israel would limit its overflights of Lebanon in return for a Syrian withdrawal of the missiles. U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib had not made any such proposal, Begin went on, and had he done so Israel would have rejected it immediately. He said Israel and the United States have the same stand on the issue of the restoration of the status quo ante, and he praised Philip Habib's abilities, although he added that the U.S. envoy has not yet achieved any results. Begin also explained to the American people that Israel's overflights of Lebanon are a matter of life and death for Israel, allowing it to attack and demoralize Palestinian "terrorists" and thereby render them incapable of attacking Israel. The Israeli prime minister strongly denied that he is exploiting the missile crisis for electoral purposes, describing any such suggestion as insulting.

Another Government Press Office release clarified Begin's remarks on the Syrian missiles, stating that the prime minister meant that Syrian missile batteries stationed on the Syrian-Lebanese border before the crisis erupted might remain but that Syria must undertake not to use these remaining batteries against Israeli aircraft overflying Lebanon for reconncaissance purposes. Jerusalem radio, citing Israeli political sources, said Israel will agree to a Phalangist withdrawal from the Sannin area and will undertake not to attack Syrian units in Lebanon if Syria accedes to Prime Minister Begin's demands.

Syrian Comment--According to SANA, the daily AL-BA'TH said Begin's conditions in his latest interview can only be understood as a declaration of war. AL-BA'TH described Begin's call for a withdrawal of missiles from Syrian territory as well as from the Al-Biqa' valley as a crazy condition that defies the simplest rules of logic and reason. The missiles will stay to defend Lebanon even if they give Begin sleepless nights or dash his illusions, AL-BA'TH concluded. Damascus radio reported that the daily TISHRIN said the reconnasisance activities of an Israeli plane downed recently over Latakia prove that Israel is preparing for a "comprehensive aggression" against Syria without confining itself to Lebanon. The decision to launch such an aggression has already been made, TISHRIN went on, asserting that Israel aims to exploit the mission of Habib, possibly with the connivance of the United States itself.

Habib Mission--Jerusalem radio reported that after a meeting with Philip Habib, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that the situation is still serious but that Habib has managed to obtain more time to continue his diplomatic efforts. According to IDF radio, the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee saw very little, if any, progress in Habib's most recent shuttle to Damascus. The only significant achievement, IDF radio reported, was that Habib will probably undertake another round of mediation. According to Beirut radio, Habib arrived in Beirut this morning. Earlier, Jerusalem radio had said Habib did not have anything left to do in Israel and was simply awaiting an invitation to return to Syria.

Military Situation--Violent artillery and rocket exchanges erupted along the Beirut contact lines during the evening of 21 May, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. However, the capital was calm this morning, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Lebanon also reported further Syrian sniper fire at Zahlah and Qa' ar-Rim and said 42 Syrian vehicles entered Lebanon late in the evening. The UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ reported that 15 French and Italian helicopters have been shipped to the Christian-held port of Juniyah to reinforce the Phalangists.

AFP, citing correspondents in the Al-Biqa' Valley, reported that Syrian forces fired SAM missiles at an Israeli reconnaissance plane, shooting it down. Monitored Syrian media have not reported any such incident, and an IDF spokesman, cited by Jerusalem radio, called the report nonsense and said the Syrians had not fired any missiles at Israeli planes over Lebanon.

Arab Foreign Ministers Conference--According to Beirut radio, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said before his departure for Tunis that he has no working paper on the Lebanese crisis but that there are views, ideas and stands that Lebanon will inevitably adopt. He stressed that Lebanon cannot shoulder the burdens and consequences of Israeli aggression alone. Damascus radio reported Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's arrival in Tunis at the head of the Syrian delegation. According to the Voice of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Tunis, while Faruq Qaddumi, reported earlier to be the head of the PLO delegation, arrived in Tunisia. Damascus radio cited the daily TISHRIN as saying that there is one major goal for the Arab foreign ministers: the determination of stands and roles in line with the current situation and in response to Syria's needs. TISHRIN said the ministers are called upon to lay the necessary bases for bolstering Syria's steadfastness in its confrontation with Israel.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In reportage on recent military activity, Tehran radio reported that coordinated operations were carried out along the Shush-Allaho Akbar-Susangerd front, that territory was recaptured and that an Iraqi brigade was destroyed in the area. The radio said some 555 Iraqi soldiers were taken as prisoners of war and nearly 300 enemy soldiers were killed. In a message to Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces, carried by Tehran radio, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr congratulated him on "the greatest victory to date." According to the message, Iran suffered its fewest casualties since the war began and the enemy suffered its greatest casualties and losses. A guard corps statement, carried by Tehran radio, reported 400 Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoner in the Allaho Akbar area, 300 Iraqis were killed and 350 taken prisoner in the western sector of Susangerd, and 126 were taken prisoner in the Shush region. According to the radio, fighting and an exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on western and other fronts. An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that a battle against Iranian soldiers in the Susangerd area is continuing. It claimed that the Iranians have lost 68 men, while admitting the loss of 6 on the Iraqi side. It did not mention the taking of prisoners by either side.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KHADDAM MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL IN TUNIS

JN212150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Tunis--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Tunis today at the head of a Syrian delegation to participate in the meetings of the Arab League's emergency session, due to open tomorrow to discuss the volatile situation in the region. He was welcomed at Tunis international airport by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, Tunisian National Education Minister Frej Chedli, Syrian Ambassador to Tunisia 'Isam an-Na'ib and senior Arab League officials.

In a statement to journalists, Khaddam said that the meeting will be on the level of the challenges facing the Arab nation, particularly in the wake of the Israeli arrogance and aggressive intentions as well as Israel's allegations that it has the right to hegemony in the region. The minister added: We in Syria, while confronting these Israeli allegations, are confident that the Arab nation will face the situation with all its potentials.

PFLP SPOKESMAN REJECTS U.S. MEDIATION EFFORT

JN221022 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Beirut, 22 May (SANA)--Bassam Abu Sharif, one of the leaders of the Palestinian revolution and official spokesman of the PFLP, has asserted that President Reagan's envoy, Philip Habib, cannot act as mediator, for the United States is a party hostile to the Arab masses and their liberation forces.

In a statement today to the SANA correspondent in Beirut, he said that Habib's mission in the region focuses on unifying the stands of the Camp David partners and trying to use some Arab regimes to pressure Syria to retreat from its firm patriotic stand. He called on all Arab patriotic forces to support Syria in these circumstances and to increase their cohesion with the forces opposed to the Camp David accords, in order to enhance these forces' effectiveness against the accords and their results in the Middle East.

Abu Sharif added: The Syrian step has proved that [words indistinct] gradually change the political balance of forces in the region if the Arab nationalist forces use their forces and resources well. The Palestinian revolution, which has not stopped the fight against the Zionist enemy, is capable of qualitatively escalating its struggle against the Zionist enemy if resources are made available to it.

Concluding his statement he said: We will strongly face all the Zionist onslaughts and continue to fight against them from all the Arab fronts.

VOP CRITICIZES BEGIN STATEMENTS TO U.S. TV

JN211957 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] On the eve of the Arab foreign ministers meeting, the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese stand is hardening more and more on the arena of confrontation in face of the Israeli threats. Moreover, the possibility of war continues to exist, as Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told the U.S. television stations.

Although the statements voiced by the Zionist leaders have revealed a noticeable retreat during the past 2 days, the statements which terrorist Begin gave to the U.S. television stations prove that the Zionist aggressive intentions against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution is still being harbored with clear determination, particularly because terrorist Begin has introduced a new factor into what he called the Israeli conditions for reaching a settlement for the missiles.

This factor is a stipulation that Syria pledge not to use surface-to-air missiles against Israeli planes, even from inside Syria. This is in addition to the other two conditions: withdrawing the Syrian missiles from Lebanese lands and from the Syrian-Lebanese border areas and withdrawing the Syrian forces from the Sannin summit and the Zahlah hills. Begin's conditions stress that he is going too far in challenging and in his determination regarding aggression.

CHATTI, SEKOU TOURE MEET ON MEDIATION EFFORTS

LD1923330 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Jidda, 19 May (SPA)--Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, returned to Jidda tonight following a stop in Tunis on his way home from Conakry following a 2-day visit to Guinea. Chatti conducted talks in Conakry with Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinean president and chairman of the Islamic good offices committee on the committee's efforts to (?solve) the Iraqi-Iranian dispute and to halt the war between the two Muslim countries. In a statement made to SPA on his return, Chatti said that consultations are now taking place with other members of the committee to fix a date for its next meeting. (?This meeting will be held in Jidda within the next 5 days). [passage indistinct]

VOP BEGINS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST 15 MAY

Introductory Announcement

JN1121845 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab world at 1801 GMT on 12 May carried the following announcement in Arabic: "We would like to draw the attention of the brother listeners to the fact that effective Friday, 15 May, we will begin a daily transmission of a detailed newscast and a political commentary in English at 1645 [1445 GMT]."

The radio then carried the following announcement in English: "This is the Voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestinian revolution. Beginning on Friday, May 15th, the Voice of Palestine will broadcast a news bulletin in English at 1645 [1445 GMT] every afternoon. The Voice of Palestine English broadcast will cover the latest details of the security situation in Beirut and southern Lebanon, the latest developments concerning the Palestinian resistance both inside and outside the occupied territory and a general commentary on Palestinian affairs and events in the area. Listen every day at 1645 in the afternoon to the latest news in English on the Voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestinian revolution."

Initial Broadcast

JN151654 [Editorial Report] The clandestine Voice of Palestine in English was hear heard to sign on at 1450 GMT on 15 May on 1270 kHz. The program began with a popular fedayeen song followed by the opening announcement.

Following a musical interlude the announcer said, "Good afternoon, this is the Voice of Palestine, voice of the Palestinian revolution. It is time now for our daily English news bulletin."

A second announcer then read the newscast consisting of the following topics: 1) West Bank demonstrations; 2) 'Arafat activities in Algiers and Tripoli; 3) 'Arafat cable to Pope John Paul; 4) Israeli overflights of southern Lebanon; 5) exchange of sniper fire in Beirut; 6) ADF and Lebanese nationalist advances in the Sannin region; 7) report on arrival of U.S. carrier in region; and 8) U.S.-Egyptian military cooperation talks. The newscast was followed by a 5-minute talk on the anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The program concluded at 1504 GMT with the following announcement: "This is the end of the news. Thank you for listening. You can hear news in English every day at a quarter to five." Immediately afterward the station's Arabic-language transmission resumed.

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPTIAN NEUTRALITY IN EVENT OF WAR RIDICULED

LD201517 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 18 May 81 p 2

[By Jasir al-Jasir]

[Excerpts] Despite the tension that has been prevailing in the area as a result of the feverish talk about war, an Arab official found it pleasant to tell jokes at a time of crisis. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, has made a statement which was a "joke statement," as our Egyptian brothers would call it. The foreign minister said that Egypt will adopt a neutral stand if war breaks out between Israel and Syria.

We do not know who will adopt a neutral stand: Would it be the president's regime and his clique, or the Arab people of Egypt? We cannot imagine that if war breaks out between the Zionist Jews and the Muslim Arabs, the Egyptian people and their Muslim army would remain neutral while seeing their fellow Muslim Arabs falling victims of Jewish bullets.

Of course, Kamal Hasan 'Ali's words are a reflection of the dreams of his bosses who would like to neutralize all the Arab countries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali is advocating Herzel's dream. What Herzel has sown was reaped by Begin after Carter did the farming and a leading Arab provided free labor. This Arab has departed from Arab unanimity to call for neutrality. We wonder: Can one be neutral between good and evil? Can a Muslim believing in the teachings of Islam be neutral in a war to which the Muslims are a party and to which the other party happens to be a people whom it is the duty of every zealous Muslim to resist and to fight?

We have never wanted war nor have we wished that there would be another war in the area unless it be inevitable. But how I wish that war will break out between the Muslim Arabs and the Zionist Jews so as to see how long the Egyptian regime's neutrality would last and for how long the Egyptian people, who are exploited by their rulers, would be stopped from fulfilling their religious duty.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR'S STATEMENT ON RETURN FROM INDIA

LD211958 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 May 81 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee and chairman of the People's Supreme Assembly Presidium and of the Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Aden this morning after a 3-day official visit to the friendly Republic of India. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was received on his arrival at Aden airport by a number of brother members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, ministers and senior party and state officials.

On his arrival Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad issued a press statement in which he expressed his gratification with the results of his visit and his discussions with leaders of the friendly Republic of India. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that during the visit, the development of relations between the two countries and peoples was discussed. Views were also exchanged on a number of issues concerning the current international situation, and particularly the situation in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East. There was concurrence in views and stands on a number of issues we touched upon.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added that with regard to relations of cooperation between the two countries agreement has been reached on a number of matters which will help in promoting these relations in future. With regard to the situation in the Indian Ocean, there was a joint emphasis on the necessity of making it an ocean of peace and cooperation among the littoral countries. We explained to our friends, the Indian leaders, the dangers of the formation of the American rapid intervention forces, stockpiling of weapons and increasing arms expenditures in the areas neighboring our two countries.

As for the situation in the Arabian Gulf, we jointly expressed a firm belief in the necessity of concerted efforts by our two countries to make the area a zone of peace and cooperation. In this respect we also emphasized the honorable aims of our call for the holding of a summit conference of states of the Arabian Peninsula, the Arabian Gulf, the Horn of Africa and the other parties concerned for the comprehensive elimination of the foreign bases that are hostile to our peoples.

On the Middle East crisis, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that the two sides emphasized continued support for the just rights of the Palestinian people and backing for their struggle to return, to exercise self-determination and to build their independent state led by the PLO. We also explained to our Indian friends the current situation in the Arab region and expressed to them our appreciation for their backing for the struggle of the Arab peoples for recovering their occupied territories and safeguarding their national sovereignty.

SHARON HOLDS TALKS; MEETING WITH AS-SADAT SET

TA211234 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 81 pp 1, 15

[Cairo correspondent Uri Dan's report]

[Excerpt] A message from Prime Minister Menahem Begin to Anwar as-Sadat will be delivered today by Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, who will be received today by the Egyptian president at the 'Abidin Palace in Cairo. Mr Sharon met with Mr Begin before his departure for Egypt, and the prime minister authorized him to deliver the message to As-Sadat. The content of the message was not been disclosed.

The meeting with the Egyptian president has been scheduled for noon, after a working session with the Egyptian agriculture minister, Dr Da'ud.

Six Egyptian ministers, headed by deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, attended the dinner given in honor of Sharon and his delegation at the "Hilton Nilus" in Cairo last night.

In the morning, during a working session at the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry, in which wide-ranging joint projects have been agreed upon, General 'Ali phoned in and invited Sharon for a meeting at his office at 7 in the evening. For 1 and 1/2 hours the ministers exchanged views on various problems common to the region and the two countries.

Foreign Minister 'Ali later told MA'ARIV in reply to a question that "the Soviet Union is interested in prodding and encouraging the tension in Lebanon." 'Ali added, however, "We are not concerned; we are sure that the parties involved will behave responsibly, since it is most imperative that those Soviet efforts to cause unrest and tension in the region--be checked."

The Israeli Embassy was represented at the dinner by the new Ambassador Moshe Sason and his colleagues Mr Efrayim Dubek and Mr Yitzhaq Oron. Present also was Egyptian ambassador in Israel, Sa'd Murtada, who is returning to Israel today with a message from As-Sadat to Begin.

AL-BAZ SAYS CAIRO DISCUSSING LEBANON WITH ISRAEL

NC220707 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 22 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] On the intensive Egyptian diplomatic efforts to avoid a further deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, AL-AHRAM reports a press statement by Egyptian Foreign Ministry First Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz in which he says that Egypt is holding intensive contacts with Israel with a view to preventing the exacerbation of the situation in Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR EXPECTS NO EXPANSION OF MISSILE CRISIS

LD201333 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 May 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Lebanon and the Confrontation Involving Fleets"]

[Excerpts] The diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict between Israel and Syria over the missiles which Syria has deployed in the Al-Biqa' valley have failed and all quarters have affirmed that the U.S. envoy's mission has reached a dead end. It can be said that the situation is now inclined toward a war confrontation and that it is heading in this direction at great speed.

This war confrontation has become clear and all the world news agencies were talking about it yesterday after units of the Soviet and U.S. navies, including aircraft carriers, moved toward the Lebanese coasts. The agencies report that units of the Soviet fleet were the first to move and that the U.S. Navy hastened to counter by dispatching a number of Sixth Fleet ships headed by an aircraft carrier. The agencies said that the United States will reinforce these units with more ships and another aircraft carrier and that these ships have already sailed and may have already arrived.

If anything, this Soviet-U.S. confrontation clearly indicates that, as we have already said, the Lebanese problem has been taken out of the hands of the Lebanese and the Arabs as well and is now in the hands of the two superpowers. But the urgent question that comes to mind is why this U.S.-Soviet buildup? What comes after this confrontation involving fleets off the Lebanese coasts? In fact there is no convincing answer to this question. Begin has tried to portray this as an international confrontation but we are certain that this is Menahem Begin's hallucination and that there will never be war between the Soviets and the Americans, even if both countries concentrate all their navies near Lebanon.

The situation is one of conflict between Syria and Israel and we are certain that this conflict will not go beyond the missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley. The Soviet and U.S. fleets are watching the situation in the area. While Israel insists on nothing short of withdrawal of these missiles or their destruction by force, Damascus issued a statement saying it will not withdraw these missiles and appealed to the Arab countries to give up their neutral stand in this conflict. It said that neutrality is rejected because it is in Israel's interests.

It is known that the Arab countries are not neutral, as the 'Alawite Ba'thist group alleges, but it is realized that Syria's policy and the imposing of a Syrian presence on Lebanon are the reason for all this. They realize that Syria has been taking Arab aid not in order to protect Lebanon, as it alleges, but in order to kill the Lebanese. Over and above all this it wants, through this crisis, to remain in Lebanon representing all the Arabs under the pretext of carrying out the task of the Arab Deterrent Force.

Indeed the 'Alawite Ba'thist group rejected the proposals put to them by the U.S. presidential envoy only because they realized that agreeing to withdraw the missiles all at once or gradually would finish them, deprive them of millions in Arab aid--something which they are anxious to keep--and further isolate them from the Arabs. Therefore, they chose the lesser of the two evils and asked the Soviets to back them and to show the world that they are not alone. This was the subject of the Soviet chief of staff's long discussions in Damascus. Consequently, the Soviets hastened to concentrate their naval units along the Lebanese coast.

It appears to us that the United States will ask Israel to be patient. Israel will respond but will wait for a suitable opportunity to launch a lightning strike after which the Syrian Ba'th will find itself facing a fait accompli.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS TO NDP LEADERS ON OPPOSITION

NC216110 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] In the weekly meeting held at the headquarters of the National Democratic Party [NDP] today, President Anwar as-Sadat declared that it is necessary to firmly confront the lies of the opposition which are based on hatred and far removed from honest opposition. President as-Sadat also called for the convening of an expanded conference of the NDP leaders to discuss the proposed ideas regarding the form of opposition in Egypt which is defined by the democratic exercise itself.

Explaining the reasons which prompted him to raise the issue of the opposition at present, the president said that sound opposition is based on the building of prosperity for the people and not on the circulation of lies and the fanning of strife and hiding behind the name of opposition in order to defame Egypt abroad.

In his replies to the questions of NDP leaders, President as-Sadat explained that there is no true opposition in Egypt but acts of hatred similar to what existed in Egypt before the 23 July revolution. He said that the only guarantee for democracy is for the NDP to remain united and strong and not to enter into side battles.

The president said: It is regrettable that the opposition should resort to lies and the twisting of facts. The NDP must face up to this situation and put the facts in their proper perspective. It is necessary to confront such lies without incriminations. The president said: While we are moving ahead toward our clear aim to solve the problems of food and housing, the sound opposition is the one which offers suitable solutions with a view to serving the people.

The president also replied to the questions put to him by the leaders of the NDP regarding the method of democratic action in the coming stage, what was published by the opposition ASH-SHA'B newspaper, the president's vision of the form of opposition, the idea of having two big parties and the rumors about an intention to dissolve the People's Assembly. The president affirmed that there are no constitutional reasons calling for the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. This can only take place through popular referendum when there is an issue affecting the future of the nation, as happened when Egypt signed the peace treaty, he said.

In the sphere of development and food security, the president explained that the NDP has its comprehensive program, particularly on the problems of food and housing, providing for the establishment of new societies and new agricultural land to increase the farming area and increase production in order to control prices. It also provides for abolishment of middlemen and taking goods from the producer and given directly to the consumer.

The president pointed out that the food security company which the NDP has established is working toward this goal. He also referred to other efforts being exerted in this regard, including the cultivation of 50,000 feddans this year with the establishment of a big city in the area. Next year more than 100,000 feddans will be cultivated. This is in addition to the efforts being exerted by the Ministry of Reconstruction. He explained that in doing so we are proceeding on the right course and are working to solve the problems.

The weekly NDP meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the members of the NDP Political Bureau, the ministers, leaders of the NDP in the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council and the party secretaries in the governorates.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 343

JN211710 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces continue to hit the Iranian enemy in order to exact due punishment on him until he returns to his senses. In its Communique No 343 this evening, the Armed Forces General Command announced that known enemy losses during the past 24 hours amounted to 68 dead, 1 tank, 4 vehicles, 4 observation posts and 3 ammunition stockpiles. Meanwhile, the Iraqi forces in Khafajiyah [Susangerd] are confronting an enemy force, supported by tanks and artillery, in a battle that is still continuing so that the rash enemy will receive the punishment he deserves, as was the case in the first battles at Khafajiyah, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Abadan, where his forces were destroyed and where he sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment.

The text of Communique 343 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave armed forces continued to hit the forces of the conceited, ignorant Persians in the operations sectors yesterday evening and today. The results are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our units' positions in the Nowsud region. Our units attacked it, killing 11 and forcing the enemy to flee. Our units destroyed two observation posts and one ammunition stockpile in the same region.
B. One vehicle was destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. Nine were killed and one tank and one vehicle was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. One observation post was destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. Ten were killed and one observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. One vehicle laden with troops and another laden with ammunition were destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy infantry force, supported by artillery, in the Shush region. It hit the enemy force hard with various weapons, killing 23.
H. An enemy force, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked one of our forward units in the Khafajiyah region. Our unit fiercely confronted it with all weapons. The battle is still going on in order to exact due punishment on the enemy so that he may return to his senses. What the enemy will gain in this battle will not be different from what he has gained in the previous battles of Khafajiyah, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Abadan, where his forces were defeated and where he sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment. Our units also hit an enemy concentration in the same region, killing 11.
I. Four were killed and one ammunition stockpile was destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 68 dead, 1 tank, 4 vehicles, 4 observation posts and 3 ammunition stockpiles.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier and one field gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 May 1981

CAPTURED IRANIAN PILOT CLAIMS SYRIAN COLLUSION

JN212134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)--An Iranian pilot who was captured by the Iraqi forces has disclosed the details of the Iranian raid on the Iraqi airfield of Al-Walid on 13 April, a raid that was launched from Syrian airspace.

Flying officer (Kava Korbayah) said that he took part in this raid, in which Syrian airspace was used on the way to and from the target. He added that Syria provided him with support.

In a televised interview carried here tonight, he explained that the Iranian aircraft took off from (Sharukhi) Airbase in the direction of Ar-Rida'iyah Lake. They were refueled in the air by two 707 aircraft. The Iranian aircraft then entered Turkish airspace and later Syrian airspace, when they were once again refueled, this time by two 747 aircraft in Syrian airspace. This was enough for the Iranian aircraft to carry out the raid on Al-Walid Airfield and to return via Syrian airspace, where they were again refueled by two 747 aircraft.

The Iranian pilot said that they discovered that one of the aircraft had been hit. It made an emergency landing at an airport near Dayr az-Zawr, as was agreed upon. Its pilots were transported by helicopter to Damascus and from there to Tehran in a 747 aircraft.

He said that in that raid the Syrians placed an airport at the disposal of the Iranian planes for emergency landings in Dayr Az-Zawr and air support when the need arose. But he explained that the issue of Syrian air support was excluded from the operation for fear of confusing Syrian and Iraqi planes, where the national flags on the tails of the planes are very similar.

Flying officer (Korbayah) and Flight Lt Mohammad Reza Labib spoke about the circumstances of their capture. They said that they were ordered to fly from Tehran on board F-4E [as received] planes to attack a refinery south of Khanaqin. The raid included four planes.

They explained that their planes were refueled in the air by a 747 plane and that after their arrival over Gilan-e Gharb, they headed for the target, a refinery south of Khanaqin. Before they could attack, their planes were hit by air-to-air missiles.

Flying officer (Korbayah) said that the planes which fired air-to-air missiles at their planes did not look like MiG's.

Talking about the conditions inside the Iranian Armed Forces, the flight lieutenant said that the executions and liquidations included everyone, from the soldier to the officer. He added that the present military commanders are ineffective because they were appointed upon the orders of Prime Minister Raja'i as a challenge to President Bani-Sadr.

He added that the economic situation is extremely bad and that the prices of foodstuffs--if they are available at all--have risen by 300 percent. One must have a card and stand in long queues to make purchases.

The two captive pilots were promised that they would be allowed to visit the holy places and tour the Iraqi markets in order to become acquainted with the economic and political situation in Iraq. The promise was made after the flight lieutenant's talk about what he used to hear about the situation in Iraq from the Iranian information media.

IBRAHIM RECEIVES JORDANIAN POPULAR DELEGATION

JN211457 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)--'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, received here today the Jordanian popular comaittee delegation in support of the Iraqi people's struggle led by committee chairman Dhuqan al-Hindawi. The RCC vice chairman conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and expressed the Iraqi president's, government's and people's appreciation for the pan-Arab stand fraternal Jordan is adopting in support of Iraq's battle of honor and dignity on the eastera flank of the Arab homeland on behalf of the Arab nation. The RCC vice chairman expressed his appreciation for the committee's efforts, wishing it success in serving the Arab nation's objectives.

Head of the delegation Dhuqan al-Hindawi praised Iraq's pan-Arab stands, asserting that Iraq's battle against the racist Persian regime is aimed at establishing the national and pan-Arab rights and at defending the Arab nation's present and future.

ANTIREGIME ACTIVITIES OF KURDISH REBELS REPORTED

JN201705 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 15335 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] The Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party in Iraq has issued a communique on fedayeen operations carried out by its mujahiddin against the enemy forces.

A. The mujahiddin killed several fascist Ba'thists near the gas station and post office in Dujayl village. In the wake of this attack, the At-Tikriti authorities executed 10 political detainees belonging to the Ad-Da'wah Party.

B. The mujahiddin blew up the Basra railroad, destroying several cars loaded with weapons.

C. The mujahiddin killed several security and intelligence agents in Az-Zawra' Square, in the Al-Qazimiyah quarter in Baghdad.

CLANDESTINE VOICE OF IRAQI KURDISTAN COMMENTARIES

Prison Attack Condemned

JN201718 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1535 GMT 19 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Condemnation of the Bombing of the Dowletlu Prison in Sar Dasht"]

[Text] The fascist Ba'thist regime is an archenemy of the Kurdish people and the other peoples in the region. This regime is not satisfied with terrorizing and oppressing the Iraqi people, but is now trying to stretch its hands to harm the other peoples, particularly the friendly Iranian peoples, including the people of Iranian Kurdistan.

A week ago, Iraqi warplanes bombed the Dowletlu prison in Sar Dasht and hurled napalm bombs and rockets at the detainees in the prison. Scores of Iranian citizens, including Kurds, Persians and Azeris, were martyred. Thus, the Iraqi regime added another black crime to its criminal record, a crime similar to those which occurred a few years ago in Qal'at Dizah, Halabjah, Galalah, Dakkah and in many other areas in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The bombing of the Dowletlu prison and the murdering of the helpless detainees who were inside it is consistent with the racist policy of the Saddamist regime and its tendency to bomb civilian centers in Iran, as it has frequently done in Kermanshah, Paveh, Dezful, Ahvaz and Abadan. The crime of bombing the Dowletlu prison was perpetrated in cooperation with the agents of imperialism, Shahpur Bakhtiar's mercenaries and the remnants of the agent Iranian SAVAK. This crime was also perpetrated in full collaboration with the Ba'thist agents among the Kurds.

We appeal to the various communities of the Iraqi people to condemn and denounce the Iraqi regime's crime and also to condemn the aggressive war Saddam Husayn is waging against the revolution of the friendly Iranian peoples.

Down with the fascist Ba'thist regime and with its agents.

Long live the join. struggle of the Iraqi and the Iranian peoples against imperialism and reaction, particularly the struggle against the U.S. imperialist plots.

Regime Scorned

JN201526 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1535 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Dahuk-Zakhu prison: We would once again like to draw the attention of international and Arab public opinion to the crimes committed by the fascist Ba'thist regime of Saddam at-Tikriti against the Kurdish people in particular and the Iraqi people in general. Public opinion has been repeatedly informed that the terrorist Iraqi authorities are arresting the wives, children, mothers, sisters and all the other relatives of the peshmerga and the strugglers belonging to the various Iraqi opposition forces instead of arresting the Peshmerga and the strugglers themselves. The Iraqi authorities terrorize and torture these families in detention camps. Many children, women and old men lose their lives as a result of this.

The following is another example of the acts of terrorism practiced against the innocent citizens by Saddam Husayn's fascist regime: Some time ago, the authorities arrested the wife of one of the peshmerga belonging to our party's first branch. The authorities put her in Dahuk-Zakhu prison along with the families of other peshemerga. The first branch reported that the wife gave birth to a baby while in prison. The baby died as a result of the lack of care and the bad conditions that prevailed in the prison. The authorities refused to bury the child for 3 days, waiting until formalities had been completed.

We once again appeal to international and Arab public opinion to raise their voice in protest against and denunciation of the fascist acts of the Saddam at-Tikriti regime, we call on this public opinion to renew its solidarity with the Iraqi people--Arabs, Kurds and minorities belonging to the opposition forces--and to work for the release of the innocent families of the strugglers and peshmerga. We also call on this public opinion to work in order to halt the pursuit of these families and to obtain the release of the political detainees in Iraq. We also call on the sons of our people to escalate their struggle against the fascist regime in order to topple it and establish a democratic regime that will bring peace, stability and social progress and under which the Kurdish people will enjoy self-rule and which will eliminate the current dictatorial and terrorist situation.

Warns Against Traitors

JN201734 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Revolution in Bahdinani Kurdish 1630 GMT 19 May 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Our Kurdish People Will Not Be Deceived Again by Those Who Sold Their Souls"]

[Text] Brother Kurdish peshmerga--The hope for freedom and liberation, our Kurdish people's struggle, is entering a new phase. Our Kurdish people have proved to the entire world that the fire ignited by them will not be put out by the killings and oppression carried out against them by the traitors and reactionary leaders. Our Kurdish people, with one hand on their wounds and the other carrying weapons, will continue their revolutionary struggle and will not be defeated. Victory is being achieved daily.

Brother peshmerga of Kurdistan, why are we fighting and what are our demands? Why have we carried arms? How can we achieve our Kurdish people's liberation? [words indistinct] we must not allow agents and traitors to shed the blood of hundreds of martyrs on the road to liberation. Courageous peshmerga, if we realize why we are fighting and why we have carried arms, then our Kurdish people's rights will not be squandered. The destruction of hundreds of Kurdish villages and the persecution of thousands of Kurdish citizens will also not be wasted, as took place in (?1975). The blood of the thousands of Kurdish peshmerga in Kurdistan who were martyred for the cause will also not be wasted.

Oh peshmerga of Kurdistan, we know very well how our people have been persecuted by imperialism and its agents in the area and by the reactionary regimes, which are the allies of imperialism. As all other oppressed peoples, our Kurdish people are asking for their freedom and independence. They want to manage their affairs by themselves and eliminate oppression. Our people want to be the masters of their own destiny. They want to be the owners of their water and land. They do not want to have another occupier in Kurdistan who will Arabize the Kurdish regions that are suffering from oppression. Our Kurdish people want to be taught in their language. They want plants and industries in Kurdistan to be completely Kurdish. You must realize, brother peshmerga, that these rights are just and legitimate and that our people cannot be liberated if they continue to live in slavery and under the oppression of the imperialists, the colonialists and particularly the agent reactionary traitors.

Brother peshmerga, our struggle is just. We must unite ranks and forces and block the road to the Kurdish reactionaries, traitors and agents and not allow them to deceive our people in the name of the Kurdish people and Kurdistan. Their treason has been revealed. You must escalate your struggle to achieve liberation and freedom.

HUSAYN USSR VISIT SEEN CONTINUING GULF TOUR AIMS

JN211110 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Jordanian Move in the Arab and International Arenas," the weekly AKHBAR AL-USBU' says: With His Majesty King Husayn's return from his successful Gulf tour, one of the stages of the Jordanian move, which took place on a large part of the Arab arena, will have many results that would have a positive impact in the near future on the general Arab stand in tackling the most serious stages through which the Arab nation is passing in the Lebanese crisis.

The Arab countries which King Husayn visited responded to the Jordanian move because it most sincerely expresses the will of the Arab nation and people and embodies all the requisites for an effective confrontation of the Zionist danger that is using Lebanon as a means to bring the situation in the region to a head, in order to create a new reality that will be imposed on the Arabs through the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis by Israel's military power.

The Jordanian move will continue on the international level with King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union after the celebrations marking Independence Day and Army Day on 25 May. King Husayn will leave for Moscow within the context of his constant quest and efforts to rally international stands to champion the Arabs in their inevitable confrontation of the Zionist enemy. Undoubtedly, Husayn's talks in Moscow will have positive results, just as his Gulf tour was definitely in the service of the Arab cause and the nation's interests in confronting challenges and dangers.

Just as it always has, Jordan will continue to bolster solidarity and a unified stand in order to expedite the building of an Arab strength that is capable of changing the balance of forces in favor of the Arabs to enable them to score victory and expel Israeli aggression from all the Arab territories.

AR-RA'Y VIEWS KING HUSAYN'S VISIT TO USSR

JN220727 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 22 May 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Husayn's Forthcoming Visit to the Soviet Union"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and several senior officials are expected to make an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the end of this month for talks with the Soviet leaders on several important issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The expected visit represents the continuation of the clear and unwavering Jordanian line which characterizes our international relations with a balanced nature, mutual respect and determination to uphold our independent character and freedom of movement in the international arena in the interest of the Arab cause and the entrenchment of peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, this visit represents the continuation of the Jordanian move begun by Husayn on the international level. It will consolidate joint Arab effort to develop the support for our cause into practice. This is completely in step with the trend that crystallized at the Amman summit.

The Soviet role in participating in bringing about a just and comprehensive solution to our issue is an important one. It should contribute to reaching the desired solution under the UN umbrella. Israel's rigid opposition to the Soviet role must not freeze or disregard this role.

It is high time to intensify and activate international effort that supports our cause to remove the Israeli aggression and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights, thus establishing a just and comprehensive peace and stability in the region. Undoubtedly, His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union in the near future will be an important and prominent step on this road.

AD-DUSTUR URGES 'COLLECTIVE ARAB ROLE' IN LEBANON

JN220841 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 May 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Lebanese Situation and the Imminent Explosion"]

[Text] There is no longer any doubt that Israel is pushing the Lebanese crisis toward a large-scale explosion. Everything it is saying about leaving the door open for the continuation of the U.S. envoy's mission to resolve the missile crisis is not subject to discussion. The more it talks about peace, the more it is actually paving the way for war. Although Menahem Begin knows that Syria is determined not to withdraw the missiles from the Al-Biqa' region because they are defensive--and it is right in not doing so--he is adding another element to further complicate the situation and bring the crisis to a head by bringing up the new concept of strategic Israeli security. He is also calling for the withdrawal of the missiles positioned inside Syrian territory under the pretext that they can control the eastern sector of the Lebanese airspace.

In addition to being an excuse to fabricate the missile crisis in the first place, this odd and unacceptable demand is an attempt at provocations and harassment aimed at complicating the crisis and pushing it toward a confrontation inside Lebanese territory, since a Syrian-Israeli confrontation on the Golan front is ruled out at present in view of the fact that the two sides have agreed to renew the mandate of the UN forces in the Syrian heights.

The deployment of Israeli military concentrations in southern Lebanon and the construction of shelters by Israeli engineers in some Lebanese villages controlled by Sa'd Haddad's militias confirm that Israel is preparing a new aggression in the Al-Biqa' region to occupy the whole of southern Lebanon in order to use it as a bargaining tool in return for the withdrawal of the Syrian missiles. Israel also aims at striking at the Palestinian resistance and at having an effective role in defining Lebanon's political future, implementing the conspiracy of partitioning it into sectarian statelets and ending its Arab role.

These dangers are too big to be faced by Lebanon or Syria alone. This necessitates a collective Arab role capable of repulsing the Israeli challenge that has gone beyond all bounds, logic and international norms. The Arab foreign ministers conference to be held in Tunis today is called upon to give very serious consideration to Begin's dangerous statements. The confrontation of the theory of Israeli security should be within the context of a comprehensive Arab strategy to tackle the Lebanese crisis, since this dangerous Israeli strategy goes beyond Lebanon and Syria to compromise all the Arab countries in their fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH MONGOLIA

JN211241 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Mongolian People's Republic have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them effective today.

The following statement was issued on this today: Due to their desire to strengthen friendship between them, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Mongolian People's Republic have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them effective 21 May 1981 on the ambassadorial level.

FU'AD BUTRUS INTERVIEWED ON TUNIS CONFERENCE

NC211352 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 81

[Statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus at Beirut International Airport prior to his departure for Tunis on 21 May--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency, is Lebanon carrying a working paper dealing with the Lebanese problem to the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis?

[Answer] Lebanon is going to Tunis because the meeting is important and will primarily deal with the Lebanese problem. Lebanon is in the center or rather in the forefront of the crisis that has escalated recently. Consequently, Lebanon's territory, future and unity are being threatened for several reasons, foremost of which are the Israeli threats and challenges, and also in view of the tragedy that Lebanon has been experiencing for over 6 years, a tragedy whose stages need not to be mentioned now.

Lebanon will discuss the topics or rather the topic on the agenda. The topic of Lebanon is linked to this topic [on the agenda], whether we like it or not and whether this is being done deliberately or not. As for a working paper, there is no working paper in the literal sense but there are views, ideas and stands which Lebanon will inevitably adopt. Following the contacts, consultations and deliberations that we will hold, we will see if it will be possible to convene a special conference on Lebanon. Only time will tell.

[Question] Do you mean an Arab summit conference?

[Answer] All possibilities can be considered provided a consensus can be reached and that there can be benefits from such conferences. However, we must not be in a hurry to hold conferences, especially summit conferences, unless we ensure the minimum elements of success for them.

[Question] Your Excellency, the Lebanese citizen in particular is asking this time whether the resolutions to be issued by the Arab foreign ministers conference will be implemented on the ground in Lebanon or will they remain on paper?

[Answer] The Lebanese crisis is very complicated. If on some occasions we have been blaming the Arab brothers for failing to pay the necessary attention to this crisis, we realize on the other hand that the Lebanese are also responsible [for not paying attention to this crisis] just as the non-Lebanese and the non-Arabs are also responsible.

In view of the developments and the ramifications of the crisis and in view of the regional and international problems linked to this crisis, it is difficult to imagine that this crisis can be solved through a resolution, no matter the quarter from which such a resolution is issued. However, a resolution helps to pave a way for a solution; it can also be a stage on the road to a solution. This is what we are hoping for.

[Question] Your Excellency, will Lebanon ask the Arab foreign ministers conference to draw up a collective Arab strategy to save Lebanon, especially southern Lebanon?

[Answer] It seems that you have forgotten that in February this year Lebanon submitted an official request to the Arab League secretary general--a request which was also published in the press--in which it explicitly asked him to act to implement the paragraph in the At-Ta'if summit conference resolutions calling for the need to draw up a unified Arab strategy toward Lebanon and southern Lebanon. However, regrettably Lebanon has not received the necessary response.

It seems that the atmosphere which the Arab League secretary general felt during the contacts that he held for this purpose did not encourage him to draw up this strategy at present. I hope that circumstances have changed and that the Arabs can now draw up a unified strategy. Lebanon cannot alone shoulder the burdens and consequences of the battle with the Israeli enemy.

[Question] A last question Your Excellency: Through what you have said and through the current Arab and Lebanese initiatives, what is your view of the situation in the area and in Lebanon, especially since Mr Philip Habib is still shuttling between Syria, Israel and Lebanon?

[Answer] I believe that the fact that Mr Philip Habib is continuing his mission and is moving from one capital to another capital, especially the capitals primarily concerned with the current crisis, is an indication that the chances of success have not closed in his face. I believe this is somewhat encouraging, even though it is difficult at present to give a final and firm judgment on what the outcome of Mr Habib's mission would be. All I can say at present is that the mere fact that Mr Habib is continuing his mission to a certain extent indicates that the doors have not been closed in his face.

SOVIET DIPLOMATS' DEPENDENTS SAID LEAVING BEIRUT

NC220746 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Informed sources in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, have said that the Soviet Embassy there has begun to evacuate diplomats' wives and children because of the missile crisis between Syria and Israel. The sources added that those who are being evacuated are proceeding to Syria en route to Moscow and that the men working at the embassy are staying in their offices.

The U.S. Embassy has evacuated a number of its employees and the British Embassy has advised all Britons who are not doing essential work in Beirut to consider leaving.

MAJOR HADDAD TAKING 10-DAY REST; COMMAND NAMED

NC220818 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad announced that he will take a rest for at least 10 days and that the command will be guaranteed on his behalf as follows: Lt Rizqallah at-Tuhaynah for the eastern sector, and Lt Sharbil Barakat for the western sector.

BEGIN SAID TO REITERATE 'AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS'

JN212023 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The enemy's prime minister terrorist Begin today reiterated the Zionist entity's aggressive intentions harbored against Lebanon and Syria. In an interview with the U.S. television network NBC today, Begin stressed that Israel will not reduce its flights in Lebanese airspace. He claimed that these flights are a matter of life or death for Israel.

News reports cited Begin as demanding that Syria not use its missiles against Israeli aircraft. He also called for changing the positions of the Arab Deterrent Forces, which are present in Lebanon with the mandate of the legitimate authority. The observers described Begin's demands as a new element of Zionist arrogance and conceit.

In another development, Israeli sources told a UPI correspondent in occupied Palestine today that the situation of the so-called Lebanese crisis is still serious. These sources added that the Israeli Government has given another respite to U.S. Envoy Philip Habib and said that Israel cannot remain idle for a long time.

TISHRIN SAYS ISRAEL PLANS TO LAUNCH AGGRESSION

JN220710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Behind the News" column under the headline "Syria and the Confrontation Decision," the paper TISHRIN says: When Menahem Begin declares that the time has come for adopting decisions, it means he has decided to proceed with aggression. What in Israel's policy would contradict such a decision? Is it Israel's refraining from violating Lebanese airspace, which it considers a right? Is it its abstention from liquidating the Palestinians and Lebanese nationalists, which it deems necessary for safeguarding its security? Is it the ending of its control over the border strip, which it considers a giant leap toward the Litani--the current target of Israel's ambition? Or is it the severance of its relations with the isolationists in the center and north of Lebanon, relations which were portrayed as compassionate and humanitarian and geared to the defense of the followers of Jesus Christ?

What in Israel's policy contradicts the decision to proceed with aggression? How can the flight of the Israeli reconnaissance plane which was downed over the Latakia region be explained other than to say it is proof of preparations for a comprehensive aggression on Syria?

The paper TISHRIN states that Begin had previously affirmed that if Syria does not withdraw its missiles from Lebanon orders would be issued to the Israeli Air Force to act. In truth, what Begin says is only a small part of what is being prepared for and the intentions harbored. The last reconnaissance plane downed over Latakia was not taking pictures of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon from Latakia airspace. Instead it was acquainting itself with the military situation in an area which is hundreds of kilometers away from the positions of those missiles.

This is clear proof that Israel intends to launch a comprehensive aggression against Syria without confining itself to the border of the military theater of operations. It will not refrain from using any kind of weapon so long as it is destructive. Nor will it refrain from dealing with targets so long as this satisfies its aggressive and malicious trend. Furthermore, what Israel calls the crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon is not the only factor considered when making the decision to proceed with the aggression. Rather, Israel's disappointment with the failure of its attempt to link the isolationists' ghetto with the border strip, the failure of the internationalization plan and the association between Begin's electoral and personal motives with the Zionist entity's larger aggressive goals are all basic factors considered in the making of the aforementioned decision.

TISHRIN affirms that, however often Israel alleges that it will not initiate an attack, that it will continue to wait for the results of the diplomatic efforts being exerted to solve the crisis or that it has not specified a time limit for the United States to end the current situation, its decision to launch an aggression has already been taken. Perhaps Israel is contemplating exploiting the mission of U.S. Envoy Philip Habib. It would not be unlikely that such exploitation would be carried out with the knowledge--or even agreement--of the United States.

If there are calculations of gains and losses in all ordinary battles, such calculations will be less important than the noble values of just battles. Syria will wage the battle imposed on it honorably, heroically and with all dedication. It will not hesitate to offer all that is needed for accomplishing the pan-Arab duty, since this battle in particular is truly the battle of Arab fate and the Arab nation's pan-Arab presence.

AL-BA'TH CALLS BEGIN TERMS 'DECLARATION OF WAR'

JN220933 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 22 May (SANA)--In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH asserts that the conditions which Begin came up with yesterday, following expanded meetings of the leaders of the Zionist establishment, and which he claimed to be suitable for solving the so-called missile crisis in Al-Biqa', can only be understood as a declaration of war by all the world's laws.

Under the headline "Begin's Conditions and the Declaration of War," AL-BA'TH says: The professional terrorist has contained in these conditions all the arrogant and aggressive trends which have characterized the Zionist establishment since the establishment of its existence in this region, irrespective of who has been in power. The paper adds: One of these conditions, for instance, says that, in order to solve the current crisis, Syria should withdraw its antiaircraft missiles not only from Al-Biqa' but from Syrian territory as well. The paper wonders: Doesn't this crazy condition defy the simplest rules of logic and reason? In addition to its aggressive nature, it conceals an absolute ignorance of the facts of the current situation and the Arab confrontation battle, facts which can no longer be ignored by anyone who possesses some sense in the world.

The paper adds: Terrorist Begin's Lebanese condition is no less stupid. Once again he is betting on the existence of a distance between the Syrian and Lebanese stands. It seems that he cannot make himself understand that the equation of the Arab nation's security lies in the unity of this arena first.

AL-BA'TH says: We were not taken by surprise by Begin's official or electoral conditions. For us, official Begin and candidate Begin are one. Let him and those behind him understand that his insolence does not concern us and his threats do not intimidate us or shake our steadfastness. Syria's stand was built on popular pan-Arab bases that are as firm as a strategic wall for the Arab nation.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH asserts: Our missiles and bases will stay to defend independent Lebanon's skies and land even if they give Begin sleepless nights or crush his illusions and conditions. Our arduous quest for gaining our pan-Arab rights everywhere will continue despite all sacrifices and Damascus will continue to be the road to the age of Arab resurgence.

DAMASCUS REPORTS DOWNING OF TWO ISRAELI PLANES

JN221226 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1221 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] The military spokesman has stated the following: At exactly 1219 on Friday, 22 May 1981, two enemy reconnaissance planes flew over the positions of our forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces in fraternal Lebanon. They were repulsed and shot down, the first in the 'Ayn 'Arab area and the second north of Al-Qir'awn Lake. Their wreckage has been gathered from the two aforementioned areas.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED BY NBC ON LEBANESE CRISIS

TA211603 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 21 May 81

[Text] The following are answers to questions asked Prime Minister Begin by Tom Brokaw of NBC TV's "Today" show, broadcast live today.

[Begin] "I would like to correct a statement made on your program today, in the morning, namely, that there is a proposal for a trade-off, that the Syrians, in accordance with such an American proposal, will withdraw the missiles, and we shall limit or even stop our overflights in Lebanon. May I tell you, my friend, that there is no trade-off whatsoever...from the first source I can inform you that if such a proposal were made to Mr Habib he would have rejected it. But he didn't make any such proposal and in any case, I speak on behalf of Israel, not on behalf of Mr Habib. [sentence as published] If such a proposal were made to us, we would have rejected it on the spot.

"I will explain to the American people why those overflights are to us a matter of life and death and there is no exaggeration. Why? Because in Lebanon now operate 20,000 members of the so-called PLO, the terrorists, and they are armed with the best sophisticated Soviet weapons, the so-called Katyusha missiles, grenades, tanks, heavy guns, etc., and they conspire (we do not know what is going on amongst them, if we don't try and see with our own eyes) every day, every night, actually every minute, to intrude into our country, and then to take hostages and to kill man, woman and child. Now, to know what is going on there in order that we can prevent them from carrying out those bloody designs, we have to take photos from the air. Indeed, as a result of that photo-taking, for the last five years (this is the status quo ante) we know almost about everybody and everything in Lebanon concerning the terrorists, and this is the reason why we can go out and attack their bases and cause demoralization amongst them so that they cannot intrude into our country. May I tell you that for the last year, since Misgav Am, where there was a great tragedy, (they killed a little girl in the presence of her father, a girl of four years, smashed her head with the butt of the rifle and then killed the father himself). Since then more than a year passed and there was no incursion, over more than twelve months. This is because we all the time attack them, almost every day--sometimes twice, sometimes even three times a day, and so they are in disarray, and are not capable of attacking us. This is the most realistic and the most effective way of preventing our people from getting killed, so how can we give up any overflights?"

"What I heard, was that Mr Habib brought in not American proposals but Israeli demands. That's not true. I would like to tell you that Mr Habib brought to Mr Al-Asad American proposals. However, I would like to add--it is my duty to add for the information of the American people--that on this issue of the restoration of the status quo ante, we have the same stand, a consensus--Israel, and the United States of America--about which we are very happy, of course."

"I could say that this question is rather insulting, but I will not react. Who can assume that I, a man who since his youth actually consecrated his life to defend the Jewish people, to try to save the Jewish people, to liberate the Jewish people would mix elections with such a task. I reject it utterly, and I wouldn't like to hear such a question again. Only a man of ill-will can think about such a possibility. It is my duty as prime minister of Israel, democratically elected, first of all to defend my people, and this is what my colleagues and I are doing, and we are going to do in the future. And no insulting questions will deter us from doing our duty." "Any questions you may ask, of course, but usually the questions should be pertinent, not impertinent."

Question: Mr Prime Minister, there has been a great deal said in the last few days, that what Mr Habib is trying to do is to stablize this very delicate balance of power that exists among all the various factions in Lebanon, and if he is successful in doing that then as a by-product Syria may well see fit to remove the missiles and things could return to the status quo ante. Is that what is happening?

Answer: Not yet. Mr Habib is doing his best. His mind is brilliant. I think he is one of the most able diplomats in our time. I am so impressed by him, by his wisdom, by his energy, and by his efforts--physically, morally, intellectually--but he didn't yet achieve results. Status quo ante, I must tell you, is not only removal of the missiles. Status quo ante is composed of three points: 1) The missiles should be removed from Lebanon proper, and the additional missiles which were placed on the Syrian-Lebanese border should be removed, and there should be a commitment--because the status quo ante was that never did Syria use missiles against us, although they are placed on their side of the territory--that they should give us a commitment that they will not use in the future. The missiles against our planes. That is the first point. The second point: The Syrians must leave the Sannin mountain, and the third point is they must relieve Zahlah from their siege. So this is status quo ante.

Clarification of Comments

TA211800 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1745 GMT 21 May 81

[Government Press Office release]

[Text] Jerusalem, 21 May--The prime minister's office announces: Israeli radio broadcast a report to the effect that the prime minister, on NBC television's "Today" show, allegedly said that the Syrians will also have to remove their missiles which are stationed on the Syrian-Lebanese border. This report is not accurate and is liable to cause misunderstandings. What is involved is the additional missile batteries emplaced after the crisis erupted. These the Syrians will have to remove, whereas the batteries that had already been stationed there will remain.

On the other hand, Syria will have to undertake not to use the remaining batteries against Israeli aircraft overflying Lebanon for aerial photography in order to prevent terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens--just as they did not use them even once for 5 full years. This, too, is part of the status quo ante. As for Lebanon, it is self-evident that all the missiles [the words "all the missiles" are emphasized in the original Hebrew] that were stationed there must be removed.

POST on Interview

TA220755 Jerusalem POST in English 22 May 81 pp 1, 16

[David Landau report: "Begin Demands Wider Pullout of Missiles"]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin demanded yesterday that the Syrians remove not only the anti-aircraft missiles that they have deployed in Lebanon but also "those additional missiles which were placed on the Syrian-Lebanese border."

Moreover, Begin said he wants "a commitment" from the Syrians "that they will not use the missiles in the future against our planes." The premier apparently meant a commitment not to fire missiles from inside Syria against Israeli planes flying over Lebanon.

Begin told an NBC interviewer that this dual demand--removal of missiles from Lebanon and from the border area, plus a commitment limiting future use of missiles--was the "first element" in the "restoration of the status quo ante."

This was the first public reference by Israel to missiles inside Syria and their impact on the crisis, and it seemed to be a jacking-up of Israel's demands.

But several sources close to the negotiations tended to see Begin's presentation as a bargaining position, intended perhaps to counter Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad sweeping demand that all Israeli Air Force flights over Lebanon must cease. Begin has declared daily throughout the present crisis that Israel will not agree to any curtailment of its spy-flights over Lebanon which are vital--as he explained once again to the NBC audience yesterday--to photograph PLO activities in Lebanon. Similarly, Syria is not expected to agree to limit its missile deployment on its own territory, or indeed to give any public commitment to Israel about their future use.

"The real focus of the crisis and of the diplomatic effort continues to be the missiles in Lebanon and the situation around Zahlah and on the Sannin ridge," informed sources said last night.

They said the diplomatic effort was still going forward--even though it gave the outward appearance of marking time yesterday, with American Envoy Philip Habib spending the day quietly in Jerusalem. The present phase was to be seen as a "sinking-in process," these sources said. Habib was taking time out while the various parties weighed up the ideas and proposals that had been submitted, and consulted among themselves before formulating their latest positions.

The Israeli side seemed to regard itself in a "wait-and-see" situation, expecting Habib to be invited back to Damascus and/or Beirut for further talks with leaders there.

All sides are also watching and waiting for the results of an Arab League foreign ministers conference due to open in Tunis today. The U.S., through Habib and other American diplomats in the area and in Washington, has plainly invested considerable efforts with friendly Arab states to gain their help in seeking a peaceful solution of the crisis--and it is hoped that these efforts may bear fruit at the Tunis conclave.

In his interview, Begin listed as the two other elements of the "restoration of the status quo" (in addition to the matter of the missiles):

"The Syrians must leave the Sannin mountain ridge.

"They must relieve Zahlah from their siege."

"This is the status quo ante," Begin concluded. He made no mention of the Lebanese Christian militias being required to relinquish their positions in Zahlah as part of Habib's package of peace proposals. Nevertheless, it is widely believed that the Christians would be required to give up control of the city--probably to units of the Lebanese Army--and confine themselves to their traditional strongholds in northern and western Lebanon.

There were clearly some second-thoughts among Israeli policymakers yesterday about the true tenor and significance of the statements made by Al-Asad to American newsmen on Wednesday afternoon. Begin's first public reaction on Wednesday evening had been to blast the Syrian leader for having asserted that there was "no American proposal--only Israeli demands."

But Israeli policymakers, having subsequently read fuller versions of Al-Asad's remarks, acknowledged yesterday that there was "much more to them" and added that Al-Asad had in fact been "relatively moderate." The Syrian leader, in his remarks, welcomed Habib's mediating efforts and said he had introduced the missiles to defend his troops in the wake of the IAF's downing of two Syrian helicopters on April 28.

Some observers felt that this formulation signalled a possible Syrian willingness to remove the missiles in the context of a general pacification in eastern Lebanon.

KNESSET COMMITTEE HEARS BEGIN REPORT ON LEBANON

TA211659 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 21 May 81

[Report by Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen--recorded]

[Text] The impression in the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today was that very little, if any, progress was made in Philip Habib's most recent shuttle to Damascus. The optimism that was reflected in the media upon Habib's return to Israel was exaggerated, committee members said. The only significant achievement at this time is that the U.S. mediator is remaining in the region and will probably go on another round of mediation.

The placing of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, committee members said after the meeting, has gone beyond its narrow security meaning and today constitutes primarily a political problem. The prime minister, too, explained that what was involved was a principle: If Israel acquiesces in the placing of missiles in the Al-Biqa' area in Lebanon, he said, the Syrians will conclude from this that they can advance them farther; therefore, Israel cannot make any concessions.

The question that was being asked at the committee session and afterward was how long Philip Habib's mission could go on without the new situation becoming, where Israel was concerned, an unassailable fact. On this matter there were differences of opinion between the Coalition and the opposition. First, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres:

[Peres] If it depended on me, I would refrain from setting dates. But this government will certainly decide on this. I think it is very bad to set dates and then to backtrack; this was apparently done once in the past. I favor the continuation of Philip Habib's mission; I am for the continuation of the effort to resolve the problem by diplomatic means. In the meantime we have gained time, but I am not sure that the solution has already been found.

[Hakohen] A somewhat different view was expressed by Yosef Rom, one of the Likud's representatives on the committee.

[Rom] Certainly there is a time limit, because the more time passes, a new status quo is created. We definitely cannot speak here of excessively long periods, because this development poses a danger and a threat to Israel's security.

'POLITICAL SOURCES' ON MISSILE CRISIS TALKS

TA211415 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Israeli political sources have told the UP correspondent in Jerusalem that in return for the fulfillment of the demands outlined by the prime minister, Israel will also agree to a withdrawal of the Christian Phalangists from Sannin area. Israel will also undertake not to attack the Syrian units in Lebanon.

The Israeli sources said that the situation regarding the Lebanese crisis is still extremely grave. Israel has given Habib a further chance, because it found that certain progress had been made in his talks with the Saudis and the Syrians. However, Israel will not be able to sit idly by for a protracted period.

The Israeli sources said that Philip Habib does not in fact have anything left to do in Israel, and that he is simply awaiting an invitation from Syria so that he can meet again with President al-Asad.

SOVIET EVACUATION OF BEIRUT VIEWED AS 'GRAVE'

TA221009 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 May 81 pp 1, 3

[Report by Tzvi Kessler, Ron Ben-Yishai, Yehoshu'a Halamish and Yisra'el Tomer: "Syrian Artillery and Ammunition Convoy Enters Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Embassy in Beirut has begun to evacuate the wives and children of the Soviet diplomats because of the gravity of the missile crisis in Lebanon, informed sources in Beirut said this morning. Israeli sources said this morning that should this report prove true, it is of grave significance.

Administration officials in Washington confirmed yesterday that the United States proposed that Israel make use of U.S. electronic spy satellites over Lebanon, in place of the patrol and photograph missions now carried out by the Israeli Air Force over eastern and northern Lebanon. This would apparently involve Israel's being given access to information reaching the United States from satellites or from high-altitude photograph missions.

Israeli diplomats in Washington said that Israel had rejected this U.S. idea at the start of Envoy Philip Habib's shuttle mission. They explained that the Israeli Government does not intend to agree to a state of affairs in which the United States would "filter" information vital to Israel's security. The Israeli diplomats added that Israeli use of the information derived from U.S. satellites would increase Israel's defense dependence on the United States even more--and this was contrary to Israeli interest. Both the Israeli diplomats and other sources in Washington believe that the report in the Washington POST (on negotiations with Israel on this subject) was a U.S. trial balloon aimed at examining the reaction of American and Israeli public opinion to the idea.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORT OF SYRIAN MISSILE USE

TA211813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS reports from Lebanon that Syrian forces fired an antiaircraft missile this afternoon. The report quoted eyewitnesses as saying an Israeli reconnaissance plane was flying in the area at the time.

The Israeli Army spokesman called the report nonsense and added that no Syrian missile had been fired at an Israeli plane over Lebanon.

DRONE DOWNED BY SYRIAN MISSILE IN AL-BIQA' REGION

TA221305 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] An Israeli pilotless plane, which had been on a routine patrol flight in the Lebanese Al-Biqa', was downed at noon today by Syrian missiles. This is reported by the IDF spokesman. The missiles were launched from a Syrian missile battery positioned inside Syria near the Lebanese border in the vicinity of the Al-Biqa' valley.

CITIZENS' RIGHTS MOVEMENT CHOOSES KNESSET LIST

TA220528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] This evening the Ratz [Citizens' Rights Movement] chose its candidates for the Knesset. The first five candidates are Shulamit Alone, Miron Benvenisti, Doz Tzucker, Dina Goren and Ya'el Tamir.

NUJOMA REJECTS U.S.-PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS

AB220904 Paris AFP in English 0720 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Paris, 22 May (AFP)--SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma has rejected in advance any U.S. moves to arrange constitutional talks for Namibia outside the context of the U.N. independence plan for the South-West African territory. He was reacting to the possibility, aired in U.S. Government circles, that before elections are staged under international supervision in Namibia, there could be talks on constitutional guarantees.

The U.S. plan embodied in Resolution 435 provides for negotiations on a constitution after the elections.

The U.S. suggestion is based on the procedure adopted by Britain in arranging Rhodesia's changeover to an independent Zimbabwe. A constitutional conference in London incorporated white-minority guarantees before elections for independence took place.

But in an interview here Thursday, Mr Nujoma stressed that the situations in Rhodesia-Zimbabwe and Namibia were not comparable, because a settlement plan for Namibia already existed. It was drawn up by the Western contact group (United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada) and adopted by the United Nations, he noted.

Mr Nujoma, in Paris for an international conference on sanctions against Pretoria, said: "Since 1966, the General Assembly has terminated South Africa's mandate in Namibia and handed it to the U.N. Council for Namibia, which is the legal administrative authority."

Even if the United Nations assumes responsibility after a South African withdrawal, they have to implement Resolution 435. The United Nations cannot act contrary to its own resolution, added the leader of SWAPO, the South-West Africa People's Organization. He said he was disappointed that the United States under President Ronald Reagan is now withdrawing and speaking on behalf of racist South Africa, after having been a leading proponent of the solution.

SWAPO is fighting South African troops in guerrilla actions in northern Namibia. Mr Nujoma commented that a policy of sanctions, in our view, is the only effective way of achieving a negotiated settlement and to bring about a peaceful solution. Otherwise the war will continue and many lives will be lost. There will be a lot of blood shed, black and white.

AFRICAN LEADERS MEET WITH GOUKOUNI IN NDJAMENA

LD211858 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 May (JANA)--Brother Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, held a meeting this evening in the Chadian capital with President Goukouni Oueddei, chairman of the Chad nationalist government, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, who is current OAU chairman, and President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, in order to finally resolve the Chadian problem.

The preliminary session opened at 1900 today. President Goukouni Oueddei spoke, stressing that peace is now established in Chad and that peace and security are no longer a problem. The question now is the reconstruction of Chad.

President Goukouni Oueddei emphasized that peace has been achieved throughout Chad thanks to the Libyan military aid extended to us at the request of the Chadian Government. He added: The need for such aid will cease at the discretion of the Chadian nationalist government.

Before the meeting President Goukouni Oueddei briefed the brother leader of the revolution and the African president on the crimes perpetrated by Hissein Habre and the destruction and ruin Chad has suffered as a result. The JANA correspondent in Ndjamena reports that the final meeting will be held tomorrow.

Call for OAU Formula

AB220740 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Four African leaders, including President Shehu Shagari, will hold another round of talks in Ndjamena today on Chad. The first round of talks took place yesterday in the Chadian capital with the current chairman of the OAU, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, presiding. President Shehu Shagari and the OAU chairman returned to Lagos last night and will go back to Ndjamena this morning. Others at the talks are President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya and Goukouni Oueddei of Chad, as well as the secretary general of the OAU, Mr Edem Kodjo.

Earlier, on arrival at the Ndjamena airport, President Shehu Shagari was presented with a white figure by his Chadian counterpart as a token of affection and peace. The president was accompanied to the talks by the governor of Borno State, Alhaji Mahamed Goni, two ministers and two special advisers.

A Radio Nigeria staff correspondent covering the meeting, (Andy Anarado), said the ravages of war were still physically apparent in the capital. Apart from a few buildings that have gone through renovation, there is hardly any building in the capital that is (?free) of bullet holes. Normal life is yet to be restored, and all commercial banks and business houses as well as education institutions remain closed. Only two foreign missions--those of Nigeria and CAR--have reopened.

At the opening session of the talks yesterday, President Shehu Shagari explained that only a formula agreed under the auspices of the OAU could bring a lasting solution to the Chadian problem. The president gave the assurance that Nigeria was prepared to provide any assistance to achieve this objective. The minister of external affairs, Prof Ishaya Audu [words indistinct] that will be presented at today's meeting. The main issues on the agenda include the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Chadian soil and the noninterference in the internal affairs of that country by any of the neighboring states.

SUDAN

MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAEL, URGES ARAB UNITY

LD211055 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 81 p 1

[Text] Khartoum--Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Mirghani al-Mubarak has made a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the current developments. He said: On the basis of its faith in its policy's firm principles, Sudan believes that the policy of arrogance and aggression which Israel is pursuing confirms that the only way for the Arab nation to confront this policy is by closing ranks and uniting its resources and capabilities, especially now that indications point to the fact that Israel's current threats to Syria and its acts of aggression against Lebanon, in contravention of all international charters and norms, constitute part of an Israeli plan to foment tension and instability in the area preparatory to occupying more Arab territories on various flimsy pretexts and excuses.

The minister said: We in Sudan believe that the recent developments and events confirm our oft-professed firm stance, namely, that Israel remains the primary beneficiary of the absence of Arab solidarity. Therefore, it is imperative that a comprehensive Arab strategy be drawn up expeditiously to confront the Israeli ambitions and threats. He added: We see no alternative to reverting to the policy of solidarity and unity of Arab ranks. We call on all the Arab states to forget their disagreements and surmount their tangential contradictions.

DEFENSE MINISTER VOICES SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

JN211826 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 21 May (SUNA)--Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, first vice president and defense minister, has stressed Sudan's absolute conviction that Africa's affairs are the business of the Africans and has said that Sudan rejects intervention in Chad because such intervention will not solve the Chadian issue, only complicate it, and such intervention serves the communist expansionist objectives in the continent and affects the security of both Sudan and the region.

In a statement following his return from Saudi Arabia today, he said that the visit took place in a sincere fraternal atmosphere and dealt with the regional and world events as well as the two countries' firm stand toward the Arab issue and relations between Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

He stressed Sudan's firm stand with Syria against Zionism and Israel despite Sudan's well-known viewpoint regarding the role of the Arab Deterrent Forces and despite the difference in viewpoints with Syria in this respect.

He went on to say: During this visit we worked for the consolidation of bilateral relations in the interest of the two countries' objectives and in consolidation of Arab-Islamic solidarity. He pointed out the need to continue meetings between the two countries in order to hold consultations on matters concerning the two fraternal countries and peoples.

He added that Sudan has been reassured on Saudi Arabia's stand by the side of Sudan and its support for Sudan's strides along the path of development and prosperity. He further added that Saudi Arabia will not hesitate to offer any aid to Sudan to enable it to achieve its aims regarding economic and social development because the two countries are linked by the one destiny. He stressed that the visit was a good chance to explain the status of the special Sudanese-Egyptian relations, which are appreciated by the Arab brothers. He said that these relations stem from the popular will to achieve economic, social and cultural integration, which has existed throughout centuries. He added that the visit was a good chance to explain the steady Sudanese stand toward the fateful Arab issues. He denounced the lies attributed to Sudan by some hostile quarters for its denunciation of foreign influence and intervention in the African Continent.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU SENDS MESSAGE TO PARIS MEETING ON NAMIBIA

LD211408 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0330 GMT 21 May 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam has expressed his firm conviction that the Paris international conference on Namibia will take a strong stand against South Africa and imperialist countries which have obstructed Namibian independence and the right to self-determination and national freedom of the people of Namibia. This conviction was expressed by Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, chairman of Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, in a message sent yesterday to the Paris international conference on Namibia, convened to discuss the imposition of sanctions against the racist and terroist rule of South Africa.

In his message to the chairman of the conference, Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam said the convening of this important international conference, following the recent UN Security Council meeting in which three Western countries vetoed the Namibian independence issue, was an indication of rejection of those negative votes and the determination and concern of the international community for justice and peace.

He said the emergence into independence of the whole of Africa and the detaching of all its people from oppression was the strong desire of all peace-loving and freedom-loving peoples, adding that he was seriously taking note of such developments. Comrade Chairman Mengistu reaffirmed that, in this respect, socialist Ethiopia will make unlimited contributions.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu noted that the negative votes cast by the three Western countries to delay the Namibian independence, the visit of the racist South African authorities to the United States, and all assistance and encouragement given by Washington to the South African regime were indications of a conspiracy hatched to stifle the genuine aspirations of the African peoples.

Continuing, Comrade Chairman Mengistu said the efforts of those people who contributed to prolonging the oppression and exploitation of the people of Namibia, in collusion with the racist South African regime and in disregard of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the OAU resolutions and conventions, were clear testimony to the nature and policy of those people, despite their utterances about the protection of human rights.

He said in light of these facts, the only choice left for the Namibian people to achieve their independence therefore, is to intensify the armed struggle. He reminded the world community that it had the responsibility of extending material, military and diplomatic assistance to SWAPO, the sole representative of the people of Namibia, to enable it to intensify the armed struggle.

concluding his message, Comrade Chairman Mengistu noted that it is his strong belief that the outcome of the international conference on Namibia would open a new and bright stage of struggle in the Namibian independence movement. He sent his good wishes for the success of the conference.

CHAD

SECURITY FORCES ROUND UP ILLEGAL ARMS IN NDJAMENA

AB211211 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] [Dateline indistrict] (AFP)--A large-scale operation aimed at the total disarmament of the city of Ndjamena was launced on Wednesday by the military police reinforced by other security forces. This operation, which involved the mobilization of an exceptional number of armed forces in the Chadian capital, made it possible to recover an impressive number of indidividual weapons and heavy weapons. In particular, a 106-mm cannon was seized in the home of one individual.

According to observers in Ndjamena, this action was aimed at creating a feeling of security in the town during the arrival of Chadian cadres for their seminar, which began on Friday. Observers also think that it made it possible for the authorities to realize that the Chadian capital still abounds with illegal arms.

ARMY OFFICERS SEEK STATUS AS REGULAR ARMY

AB211050 Paris AFP in French 0828 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 20 May (AFP)--During a meeting held in early May at Kelo in southern Chad, officers of the Chadian Armed Forces, FAT, declared that they would no longer like to be referred to as a faction, a term that had been applied to them and that they had accepted at the national reconciliation conference held in Kano, Nigeria, in March 1979.

While no official decision was issued at that meeting, official sources indicate that the FAT officers could ask the Transitional Unity Government of Chad, GUNT, to reconsider the FAT a regular army and no longer a faction.

The same sources indicate that the FAT could present their stand officially to the seminar of Chadian cadres that is going on in the capital. If this demand is accepted, then the FAT would be prepared to join the government and be treated as regular national troops and no longer as a faction as defined by the Lagos agreement, which prevented them (the FAT troops) from being paid by the public treasury. Up to 12 February 1979 (the date of the outbreak of fighting in Ndjamena), the FAT was the only regular army of Chad.

CONGO

SASSOU-NGUESSO DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT TO USSR

For materials on the activities of the People's Republic of the Congo delegation's visit, led by Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Party of Labor, including the text of the Soviet-Congolese treaty and the text of the Soviet-Congolese communiue signed at the conclusion of the visit, see the Sub-Saharan section of the 12 May, 19 May and 22 May issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Zaire

SOVIET DELEGATION LEAVES; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

AB212025 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 May 81

[Text of communique issued in Kinshasa on 20 May 1981 following visit of Supreme Soviet delegation]

[Excerpts] The official visit to Zaire of the Soviet parliamentary delegation ended yesterday and a joint communique was issued before it left on board a Soviet plane.

The two parties have manifested their firm [word indistinct] to urge their respective governments [words indistinct] for a cooperation in the field of economic development development [word indistinct] as well as in the social, cultural, scientific and technical sectors. On interparliamentary cooperation, the two delegations have decided to promote an exchange of views at the level of their two national guides within the Interparliamentary Union as well as other [words indistinct]. Also, the two parties have noticed that Soviet-Zairian relations are based on [words indistinct] and on mutual cooperation.

Both parties have called for the immediate [word indistinct] of the unification of Namibia and for the urgent implementation of the pertinent UN resolutions on Namibia; both parties have declared their support of the struggle of the South African people to eliminate the shameful system of apartheid.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation expressed its gratitude to Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, founding president of the MPR and president of the Republic of Zaire, to the Legislative Council and to the Zairian people. The delegation also thanked them for the friendly welcome and the hospitality it was accorded. The USSR Supreme Soviet gave an invitation to the president of the Legislative Council, to pay a friendly visit to the Soviet Union in August this year. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

LIBERIA

DOE REJECTS NIGERIAN CHARGE OF ECOWAS VIOLATION

AB211955 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], M Sgt Samuel Kanyon Doe, has reacted sharply to recent news reports that Liberia was not adhering to the ECOWAS treaty which sanctions the free movement of people within member states.

On Monday, the French news agency AFP carried a report that the Government of Nigeria had warned its citizens intending to visit Liberia to obtain an entry visa from the Liberian Embassy in Lagos before leaving or they would pay a $25 fee before entering.

Speaking at the executive mansion in Monrovia today, Chairman Doe said Liberia stands committed to the ECOWAS treaty on the free movement of citizens of member countries. He said it was disheartening to hear news reports that Nigeria has charged Liberia without not living up with the ECOWAS treaty regarding the free movement of people in member countries. The head of state described the news reports as false and misleading on the part of Nigeria.

AFP Report

AB220842 Paris AFP in English 0747 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Monrovia, 22 May (AFP)--Nigeria is trying to stop Liberia from taking part in the next scheduled summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), due to open in Sierra Leone next week, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, Liberia's leader, complained here yesterday.

He recalled that Nigerian opposition had helped keep Liberia out of last year's summit in Togo. That session was held a month after Sergeant Doe took power here in a military coup in which President William Tolbert was murdered.

Quoted by the state news agency LINA, Sergeant Doe said Nigeria was using as a pretext Liberia's immigration formalities which require payment of 25 dollars for travellers entering the country without a visa. This requirement breaches an ECOWAS protocol of free circulation among the 16 community countries, decided in 1979 and ratified by the Tolbert government.

Accusing Lagos of false and misleading accounts of the situation, Sergeant Doe said Liberia stands committed to the ECOWAS treaty on the free movement of citizens of member-countries, LINA said.

The agency added: "He however observed that any decision taken by the Liberian Government regarding the protocol would only be done to defend her security."

Nigerians and other foreigners were in the constant habit of bringing with them counterfeit notes and dangerous drugs when they came to Liberia to destabilize our economy, the sergeant told LINA. He asked that more prosperous African states not use their wealth to damage other African countries' political or economic policies.

Justice Minister Chea Cheapoo, responding earlier to protests about the visa regulations, had said it was currently impossible to apply the ECOWAS protocol because of security considerations. He added that the 25 dollars claimed from travellers was not a fine for being without a visa, but the fee for getting one on arrival. The protocol covers stays of up to three months.

MALI

TRAORE RETURNS FROM IVORY COAST, MAKES STATEMENT

AB212108 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] President Moussa Traore returned to Bamako today at 1200 from Yamoussoukro. The head of state had led a national delegation to Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, for a working and friendly visit. He was met on arrival at the airport by Col Amadou Baba Diarra, the deputy secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People; members of the Central Executive Bureau, of the National Assembly, of the government and of the diplomatic corps. Arriving at the VIP lounge at the Bamako airport, President Moussa Traore explained the topics discussed with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny into Mr Abdulai Sidibe's microphone:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr President, you have just ended a working and friendly visit to Yamoussoukro. We from the press witnessed there an especially warm welcome which is characteristic of an official visit. Your discussions with your elder brother, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, were held privately; Mr President, would you please enlighten us on the topics of your discussions?

[Answer] The working visit that I have just paid to Yamoussoukro, in the Republic of Ivory Coast was really to me--and I emphasize it once more--one of friendship and fraternity. It was also one of consultation on our common problems and on the future of our two brotherly peoples. To my elder brother and friend, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and myself, this visit is of yet a greater importance considering the fact that it was made, as you know, at a time when our continent is faced with numerous and serious problems which demand urgent solutions.

The need for the developing countries, and especially the African countries, to join hands and strengthen solidarity for rapid and integrated development was one of the centers of interest during the discussions that I had with President Houphouet-Boigny. And above all, it was the strengthening of economic cooperation between Ivory Coast and Mali and the tightening of all existing ties between Ivorians and Malians that dominated our discussions.

Naturally, the two countries' difficulties, caused by the deteriorating general international economic situation, were also discussed.

It became clearly evident to us that the total and permanent readiness of the Ivorian and Malian peoples for centuries to join hands, to struggle and to work together and their natural complementarity constitute solid and true bases for cooperation between the Ivory Coast and Mali. It is to be noted that the Ivorian people's determination in their development efforts under the clear-sighted and wise leadership of President Houphouet-Boigny constitutes an example of devotion to national well-being. The praiseworthy socioeconomic realizations achieved in stability and understanding prove that the Ivory Coast is a country which is rapidly developing.

I wish to express my profound gratitude, as well as my delegation's, to my elder brother, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, to the hard-working people of Yamoussoukro for the fraternal, spontaneous and the especially warm welcome accorded us during this working, friendly and fraternal visit which had all the aspects of an official visit. [end recording]

The national delegation was comprised specifically of Madam Mariam Traore, wife of the president; Professor Mamadou Dambele, secretary in the external relations department of the Central Executive bureau; Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; and Mr Djibril Diallo, the minister of transport and public works.

Upon leaving the Ivory Coast, President Moussa Traore sent the following message to President Houphouet-Boigny: Following this unforgetable visit to Yamoussoukro, your birth place, and at the time when I am about to leave your beautiful country, I would like, on behalf of my wife, my delegation and on my own behalf, to express to you my profound gratitude for the specially warm, enthusiastic and fraternal welcome accorded us by the hard-working people of Yamoussoukro and yourself. This spontaneous welcome depicts the solidarity and the close ties of friendship between the Ivorian and Malian peoples as emphasized by the centuries of common history full of common periods of struggle and enterprise as I have already mentioned. The important socioeconomic realization that my delegation and I have had the opportunity to visit and appreciate constitutes an evident proof of the concrete results of the effots of the courageous people of the Ivory Coast under your wise and clear-sighted leadership. I am convinced that this working and friendly visit, which assumed all the aspects of an official visit, will give a new impetus to our relations which, fortunately enough, see our two countries coexisting on the basis of complementarity and solidarity.

NIGERIA

NATIONAL CONCORD CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM UNIFIL

AB211302 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 21 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NATIONAL CONCORD focuses on the plight of Nigerian soldiers serving in the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, and thinks Nigeria has been bearing the brunt of the operation. The paper recalls the Colonel (Cum) affair and the number of Nigerian soldiers who have lost their lives there in a bid to maintain peace. It is against this background, in addition to the latest developments in the trouble area, that the CONCORD endorses a call on Nigeria to withdraw its soldiers from the UNIFIL. This action, according to the paper, will be understood by objective minds.

CONDEMNATION OF CAMEROON BORDER INCIDENT CONTINUES

AB211752 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 21 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The Nigerian press media continue to report on the recent killing of Nigerian soldiers by Cameroonian troops. In today's edition of press review therefore, there is a [word indistinct] of reaction from different quarters. There is also a story on the reported apology by the Cameroonian envoy from Nigeria.

Some of the papers, among them the DAILY TIMES, the NEW NIGERIAN and THE PUNCH, say top-level talk over the incident was yesterday held between a high ministry representation and the senate. The outcome of the meeting, the paper reports, are taxed top secret. But the DAILY TIMES learns that the House of Representatives committee on defense has been given only 7 days to look into the matter.

The NEW NIGERIAN adds further that the incident has created cracks in the relations between Nigeria and Cameroon, noting that the Cameroonian authorities are still mute over the apologies demanded within 7 days.

Governor Sam Mbakwe of Imo State is not happy with the killing of the five Nigerian soldiers. According to the NIGERIAN STATESMAN, Governor Mbakwe wants an immediate reprisal against such brutality and, in addition, THE PUNCH has information that the Nigerian defense minister forsees an imminent war between the two countries if Cameroon does not check its soldiers and put an end to her intransigence. Minister Akanbi Oniyangi retorts: Why should I rule out the possibility of war over the brutal killing?

However the NATIONAL CONCORD reports that the Cameroonian ambassador to Nigeria has tendered an unofficial apology over the incident. The CONCORD quotes: I cannot make any official comment for my own government right now. But I am apologizing for what happened. The envoy said the incident is being investigated by Yaounde.

Motives Explored

AB220715 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] It was the Federal Government that made public the details of the border incident in which the five Nigerian soldiers were killed by the Cameroonian forces. The surprise attack on our men took place on the Akai Ate River, which separates the Nigerian border with the Republic of Cameroon.

It is interesting to note that the Cameroonians had earlier given their own side of the story. According to a radio broadcast monitored in Lagos, the government in Yaounde said there was an exchange of fire between Nigerian and Cameroonian soldiers on patrol on the Akai Ate River. The Cameroonian authorities alleged that the incident took place in an area they described as their own territorial waters. Perhaps the most distressful aspect of the hurriedly prepared broadcast was that no one was hurt in the incident in which five Nigerian soldiers were murdered.

This particular attack on our patrolmen has opened up a whole lot of issues in the relations between Nigeria and Cameroon. The first irony of the situation is that Nigeria's heads of state, present and past, had paid official visits to that neighboring country. Also, it is on record that President Ahmadou Ahidjo has come here a number of times. It is even recalled that there was one occasion when the convocation ceremony of one of Nigeria's universities was specially organized and [word indistinct] President Ahidjo given an honorary doctorate degree; and it is equally revealing that it was only in January this year that President Shehu Shagari was so warmly received in Cameroon that he got the citizenship of Yaounde and Garoua.

What seems quite obvious from the recent incident is that behind all the pomp and pageantry that had marked the exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries, Cameroon has been nursing the ambition of seizing parts of Nigeria's territory.

The second irony of the current diplomacy is that an earlier agreement signed between both countries in respect of their common border was found to be defective in parts. It was for that reason that the Federal Government has refused to ratify the agreement that Cameroon has since endorsed as long as it concerns her territorial ambition.

Yet another ominous situation that has developed is Cameroon's gradual outward movement of her team of oil explorers into Nigeria's territorial waters. As a matter of fact, the five Nigerian soldiers were killed on the very day that President Ahidjo was opening a new oil refinery that is supposed to process the so-called off-shore Cameroonian crude oil.

Some political observers watching and waiting for the outcome of the latest development have said that, to begin with, Alhaji Ahidjo has spent 20 years as the president of Cameroon, since independence. There is a feeling that having stayed that long in office, there is always an irresistible urge to launch the country on a new adventure so as to arouse the people's support for permanent tenure in office. Whether such a bold adventure is to be tried with Nigeria is a matter that will be clear in the next few days.

Also, there are people who have put the incident within the perspective of Nigeria's position in Africa and the world. The conclusion is that the unprovoked attack of Cameroonian servicemen on Nigerian soldiers must have received the blessing of those foreign elements who would rather not see this country as the strongest nation in Africa.

Whatever be the case, Nigeria's immediate reaction to the threat of aggression from Cameroon is no doubt the most appropriate one under the circumstances. Obviously, the manner of the response from Yaounde to our demands should dictate what action to take next. In whichever way it goes, the general feeling now is that the time has come when we should let it be known that nobody can [word indistinct] attack Nigeria and get away with it.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BEING RESTRUCTURED

AB210757 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The Ministry of External Affairs is being restructured to accommodate five permanent secretaries. An acting permanent secretary, Ambassador (Mohammed Kapenta), told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Lagos yesterday that the exercise followed the acceptance of the report of a panel set up for the purpose by President Shehu Shagari. He explained that under the new system, one of the five permanent secretaries will be in charge of administration, while the remaining four will take charge of political matters.

KADUNA HOUSE PASSES MOTION TO IMPEACH GOVERNOR

AB211532 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] The Kaduna State House of Assembly today approved a motion to impeach Governor Balarabe Musa. Sixty-eight legislators voted in favor, while twenty-eight opposed the motion which was tabled by the majority leader, Alhaji Dauda Mani. The exercise came up at the expiration of the period given the governor to answer the charges leveled against him. The House also resolved to mandate the speaker, Alhaji Abubakar Danmusa, to appoint a seven-man committee to investigate the charges made against Governor Balarabe Musa, as required by the constitution.

SENEGAL

MINISTER ANNOUNCES EXPORT PROMOTION POLICIES

AB201219 Paris AFP in French 1736 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Dakar, 19 May (AFP)--The Senegalese minister of commerce Mr Falilou Kane, in an interview granted to the Dakar daily LE SOLEIL, announced that a series of measures have been taken to promote export and reduce the deficit in Senegal's balance of trade.

According to the minister, these measures concern the setting up of new export companies, the search for markets, the setting up of a system of subsides and guarantees for exports (to avoid difficulties in payments with countries which are not in the same monetary zone and to make the products competitive on African markets), and the diversification of exported products.

Mr Kane recalled that until now peanuts and phosphates formed 60 percent of Senegal's exports. But because of the drought which has hit Senegal and problems facing the sale of phosphates at the international level, Senegal has been forced to divert its efforts to other sectors such as fishing. He stated that this sector brought in 23 billion CFA francs.

In addition, a new import policy giving traders the freedom to import products of their choice from any country will be implemented as well as a policy of nondiscrimination in customs duties Mr Kane revealed.

ANGOLA

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON AREA ISSUES

LD211103 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 16 May 81 p 17

[Guido Bimbi undated interview in Luanda with Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge: "Oil, Cubans, Ronald Reagan"]

[Text] Luanda--Angola distinguishes between the U.S. economic world and the Reagan administration: a lobby of companies has even been formed to exert pressure on the president. Angola distinguishes between the Congress and the White House: the proposal to revoke the Clark amendment, which since 1976 has banned U.S. aid to the Angolan antigovernment group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has been rejected by the Senate. Angola even distinguishes between members of the administration itself: Senator Helms' new right as against Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker and the Georgetown University intellectuals. Last, Angola distinguishes between the United States and Europe: Two meetings in London and Rome have demonstrated that the Reagan line is not liked in Bonn, Paris or London.

The man facing me works skillfully, tenaciously and not unsuccessfully amid these contradictions. He is Paulo Teixeira Jorge, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Angola, just back from New York and Brussels and just about to leave for Europe.

I was immediately struck, I told him, by the success of your diplomatic initiative vis-a-vis the United States and the contradictions that you managed to highlight, particularly the one between the economic world and the Reagan administration. In short, the use of oil as a weapon is yielding results.

"If the United States intends to implement an aggressive form of diplomacy," he replied, "and destabilizing initiatives, it is normal for the Angolan Government to take measures that are negative to the interests of U.S. companies. However, we do want to continue dealing with these companies on the basis of the contracts that we have signed."

[Question] Why have the companies appealed to the U.S. administration?

[Answer] They appealed to Reagan precisely because they fear for their interests and also because they know us better than the U.S. administration does.

[Question] Nevertheless, the United States is still making the normalization of relations with Angola dependent on the prior expulsion of Cuban troops.

[Answer] The Cuban comrades came here to help us at our request when we were attacked by two regular armies. The West at that time silently awaited the annihilation of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. In the West this invasion seemed natural, while, strangely, the help given to us by friendly countries did not seem natural.

[Question] A couple of weeks ago you told the Washington POST that once the South African aggression is over and once the problem of Namibia's independence has been resolved, there will no longer be any need for Cuban aid. You went as far as to say: "We will tell the Cuban comrades: Thanks a lot; now we do not need your help any more."

[Answer] I can only confirm it. Until Namibia is independent and until South Africa stops its aggression the Cuban comrades will stay with us.

[Question] It has been disclosed that the five agendas which the African and nonaligned countries presented to the UN Security Council 2 weeks ago to request economic sanctions against, and the diplomatic isolation of, South Africa seemed designed deliberately to be rejected by the Western countries, as subsequently happened with the veto from the United States, France and Britain.

[Answer] We knew from the outset that the agendas would not be approved, that the Western countries would veto them. But we presented them because we wanted to rouse the Security Council. Now at least there will be an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly and there will be no right of veto there.

[Question] In the meetings which the "contact group" (authors of the Namibian independence plan and composed of U.S., British, Canadian, French and FRG representatives) had in London (22 April) and Rome (3 May,) the new U.S. administration's proposals were rejected and the validity of the old plan known as Security Council Resolution 435 was confirmed, as you wanted. Some new requests were introduced, however.

[Answer] The contradiction in this entire matter is that the countries of the contact group, which should be exerting pressure on Pretoria to implement Resolution 435, are the very countries which oppose sanctions on South Africa and, curiously, also the very countries that have interests in Namibia and South Africa. On the other hand, it is clear to everyone that if Pretoria permits itself to defy the international community, it is because it has these same countries' backing. Another curious fact is that the Reagan administration has questioned Resolution 435, demanding that a constitution be drawn up before the cease-fire. I say "curious" because such a demand was never made even by South Africa. This U.S. bid has failed, however, and the five, at the meetings that you mentioned, returned to Resolution 435 as the foundation for resolving the Namibian problem. But they are asking that the resolution be "strengthened" with guarantees for minority rights. I would like to make just two observations in this connection. If the white minority is Namibian too, as they claim, why establish different and special guarantees? Why are they worried about the white minority in Namibia and not in the least worried about the black majority in South Africa?

[Question] We have already mentioned the successes that you have obtained. Do they make you optimistic about the future?

[Answer] Allow me to quote [the late] President Neto: We Angolans are optimists, he used to say.

[Question] There is a widespread impression that Angola is not only present on the international scene but also acquiring prestige and recognition as an active subject and protagonist in international relations.

[Answer] We have gained experience over the years. We have consolidated our position within the community of nations. We have behaved responsibly in relations with all countries. It is thanks to all this that we are now playing an active role with respect to all international problems.

[Question] Within this context there is also talk of an opening-up toward the West.

[Answer] It is wrong to talk in terms of an opening-up toward the West. What is true is that there is a development of relations with the West European countries, since the Angolan Government has implemented the principles of its foreign policy, namely solidarity with the national liberation movements, peaceful coexistence, nonalignment and the diversification of international relations. At the same time, once our independence had been consolidated and the principles of our foreign policy translated into practice, the other countries showed interest in intensifying relations with us on the basis of mutual advantages. In short, simultaneous steps have been taken by us and by others on the basis of Angola's more intensive presence in the international context. But it must not be forgotten that these are also economic interests. These interests have been the driving force which brought some countries toward us.

[Question] Among the observers currently in Luanda, many of whom are in Angola for the first time, a widespread favorable impression has been formed of what has been described as your "strong spirit of independence," whereas the false image that the West has tried to create, of a Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola that is the "tool of the USSR's African policy," seems to be fading.

[Answer] The Popular Republic of Angola is a truly independent country with respect to all powers. It is the Angolan Government alone which decides here. I state this categorically.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING TALKS WITH CAPE VERDE

LD211702 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 May 81 EA

[Excerpt of communique following talks by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira in Luanda on 20 May]

[Excerpts] The following participated in the talks on behalf of Angola: Comrades Jundi Paima, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Central Committee secretary for foreign affairs; Lopo do Nascimento, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and minister of planning and foreign trade; Venanvio da Moura, deputy minister of foreign affairs; (Carlos) Antonio Fernandes, presidency secretary for foreign affairs; Andolfo (Shikelanga), presidency secretary for economic affairs; Maj Antonio Jose Maria, presidency secretary for defense and security affairs; Maria Pinto Santos, presidency secretary for foreign affairs; (Bebiana) de Almeida, (?world) director in the secretariat for cooperation studies; and (Madal Malo), Central Committee deputy director of information and propaganda.

The following participated on behalf of Cape Verde: Comrade Silvino Manuel da Luz, member of the Political Commission of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, [PAIGC] National Council and minister of foreign affairs; Joaquim Pedro Silva, member of the PAIGC National Council and Cape Verdian ambassador to the People's Republic of Angola; [PRA] Eduardo (Alinho), member of the PAIGC National Council and national director of security; Manuel Monteiro Eduardo, councillor to the presidency; Antonio Luis Neto, head of the Foreign Ministry Department for Asia, Africa and South Pacific; Manuel Guerreiro, departmental director of the PAIGC, and Jorge Borges, first secretary in the Cape Verdian Embassy in the PRA.

President Aristides Pereira was briefed on the situation prevailing in southern Africa, particularly the repeated aggressions against the PRA and other frontline states perpetrated by the racist South African regime, which pursues its policy of illegal occupation of Namibian territory.

Presidents Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Aristides Pereira reaffirmed that the continued occupation of Namibia by South Africa is a flagrant act against the charter and the decisions of the United Nations.

President Aristides Pereira expressed the Cape Verdian people's loyalty to and support for the brotherly Angolan people, led by the MPLA-Labor Party and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who are facing attempts by internal and external reaction to destabilize the PRA.

The two parties reaffirmed their active support for SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people in the struggle for national independence.

The two parties condemned the system of apartheid, whose aim is to deny self-determination and fundamental human rights and they expressed their total solidarity with the people of South Africa under the guidance of the ANC.

The two presidents appealed to the international community to intensify their aid to the liberation organizations in Africa in their just struggle for freedom and independence against colonialism, imperialism and apartheid.

The two parties expressed their concern [words indistinct] and the conflict between the African states [words indistinct] and appealed to all the respective parties to resolve their differences by peaceful means and in accordance with the Charter of the OAU.

On the question of Western Sahara, the two presidents reaffirmed the rights to self-determination and independence of the Saharan people. [Words indistinct] and to persuade the Kingdom of Morocco to comply with the resolutions and decisions of the OAU and to respect the sovereignty of the SDAR.

The two parties expressed their profound concern at the situation prevailing in the Middle East and energetically condemned Israel's aggressive policies, which are the principal cause of tension in that area.

The two presidents also expressed their concern at the conflict between Iran and Iraq, who are both members of the nonaligned group of countries, and expressed their support for the present policy of peace but forward by the nonaligned countries.

Comrade Aristides Pereira, secretary general of the PAIGC and president of the Republic of Cape Verde, invited Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the PRA, to visit the Republic of Cape Verde. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, the date to be fixed through [words indistinct].

[Dated] Luanda, 20 May 1981.

ZIMBABWE

OFFICIAL CONFIRMS SUCCESSFUL ARMY INTEGRATION

LD211434 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 21 May 81 CA

[Text] The minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office and chairman of the joint high command, Comrade Munangagwe was confirmed that all former AANLA and ZIPRA combatants have now been disarmed. Addressing a news conference in Salisbury this morning, Comrade Munangagwe said that apart from the deaths of two army officers in Mashumbi pools earlier this year the exercise to disarm the guerrillas has been successful. Comrade Munangagwe appealed to any persons with weapons in their possession to hand them voluntarily to the army immediately. He warned that those who will not heed this call will not have the law on their side. The minister praised members of the joint high command for their assistance in the integration exercise and also in the withdrawal of arms from former guerrillas.

Comrade Munangagwe told the newsmen that he hoped the exercise in integrating the former Rhodesian Army, ZANLA and ZIPRA will be completed during the latter part of this year. In reply to a question, the minister said that when the integration exercise is completed he expects that the country will have an army of about 65,000 men. He admitted that the size of the new army will be too large but said that this was why the government has also announced its scheme for the demobilization of those who at a later stage want to return to civilian life.